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THE PILOT!

Panama City Pilot

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Vol. 1.

Panama City, Washington County, Florida, December 5th, 1907.

No. 28

GET BUSY!

War Department's Call!

For Information about the Commerce of
Saint Andrews Bay, &c.

The movement to obtain recognition from the Government in the matter of deepening the entrance to this harbor has reached the men who have these matters directly under their charge, and brought forth from the section of the Engineer Corps of the War Department who have charge of the waters of this portion of the Gulf, a request for information as to the necessity, in a commercial way, of an appropriation for the purpose of improving the entrance to this harbor. The letter asking for such facts has been sent to various parties, and we print herewith for the benefit of all concerned, copy of one received by T. D. Sale, of Southport.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
Montgomery, Ala.
November 29, 1907.

MR. T. D. SALE,
Anderson, Fla.

SIR: It having come to the notice of the undersigned that you have expressed an interest in the pending proposition for the improvement of St Andrews Bay, Fla., you are invited to submit to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Rooms 507-510, Colorado Building, Washington, D. C., within three weeks from the date of this notification, statements and arguments explaining the commercial conditions which, in your opinion, necessitate and justify the improvement of the locality by the United States at the present time.

You are also requested to communicate the foregoing to any persons known to you to be interested in the improvement and who, not being known to this office, do not receive a copy of this communication.

Very respectfully,

H. B. FERGUSON,
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

Now that the subject has been taken up by the officials who are to report upon the same, it is very desirable that they be furnished with such facts as will tend to establish the necessity of the improvement. We are satisfied that these gentlemen will deal fairly with us, and if every one interested will give their best efforts to place before them the information they ask for, they will be convinced that our demands are just, and that the opening of this harbor is of vital importance to a large and prosperous portion of the states of Alabama, Georgia and West Florida. Let there be a general reply to their request for facts.

Geological Survey.

The PILOT office received a call yesterday from F. G. Clapp, Geologist of the U. S. Survey, which is cooperating with the Florida Geological Survey in examining in to the water supply &c., and incidentally looking into the rock formations of Florida. At present Mr Clapp is working up West Florida, starting from Tallahassee westward. He visited Southport on Tuesday, and St Andrew, Old Town, Panama City and Millville on Wednesday, taking the mail boat for Bay Head this morning.

P. J. Domer, General Superintendent of the A. & St A. B. R. R., has been in town a day or so looking after the interests of his company. He left for Econfina on Monday. He reports that the torrential rains of a week ago in the northern part of this state caused considerable damage to the new grade and in cuts, which has delayed track laying a little on the line near Econfina. After passing that point there will be less heavy work, and rapid progress will be made.

Road Supervisor A. I. Hogeboom began working the roads in this district again to-day. He is to work the remainder of the week.

False Reports.

There may be some people who are being misled by the persistent false reports being circulated by people who know better that the A. & St A. B. R. R. has entered into an arrangement with the German American Lumber Company to run its trains to Millville. There is no truth in these reports, and they will in the end injure the parties putting them in circulation much more than they will Panama City.

Mail Failures.

The repeated failures of the mail during the past two weeks, with the change made in time of arrival at Bay Head, by which all mails for East Bay points are delayed from 24 to 48 hours, has caused an intense feeling among the residents of this section, and the following petition is being circulated and universally signed.

The petition does not ask for any stated changes, but leaves the matter entirely with the Post Office Department to do something to correct the evils from which the people of the Bay country are now suffering through some one having changed the hours of departure of mails from Chipley, and arrival at Bay Head. Below will be found the petition:

Washington County, Fla.,
Dec. 2nd, 1907.

To the Honorable Postmaster General,
Washington, D. C.

WHEREAS, through changes made in the time of arrival of the mails at Bay Head, Fla., on the route from Chipley, Fla., the entire mails for the several post offices on St Andrews Bay are delayed from 24 to 48 hours, and

WHEREAS for a long term of years the service between the points named has been so conducted as to cause no delay in the transmission of these mails:

THEREFORE your petitioners would respectfully request that the Post Office Department at once take steps to have these mails handled as they have been for years, or make such changes in asserting them at St Andrew, Fla., or change in time of the departure of the boats carrying the mails to the several places on St Andrews Bay, which are supplied from St Andrew, Fla., post office, as will prevent the mail laying over from 24 to 48 hours as it now does.

Millville.

B. L. Ray was a Panama City visitor last week.

Quite a few accidents have occurred in the mill recently but none of them very serious.

B. T. Ray, father of B. L. Ray of this place, arrived from Lumpkin, Ga., on Saturday evening, coming overland.

It is reported that the German American Lumber Co. are to at once build a telephone line along their railway from Sandy Creek to Millville, some 50 miles. This will be a great convenience in operating the road and in their lumber business.

The Incorporation fever has spread to Millville. The making of a municipal corporation of Section 10, with possibly those small fractions of Section 15 that lay on the bayou between Millville and the bay, is the plan as outlined at present. There are over 25 and less than 300 qualified voters in that territory, so there can be no question as to the legality of the project if carried out.

Parker-Hoskins.

The south shore people, especially at Cromanton, have been quite a little aroused the past week over the marriage here on Sunday, by Mr Gray, Notary Public, of one of Cromanton's favorite girls, Miss Addie Hoskins, and Mr Walter Parker, of Parker. It is reported that the wedding was very much of a surprise to the brides family. She left home to visit at her uncles on Sunday last, and after dinner proceeded to Millville with the groom, and were there married. The couple have a host of friends on East Bay all of whom tender their congratulations.

INCORPORATION

Call for Election Published.

Incorporation matters have entered the first legal stage during the past week by the publication of the notice for an election to be held on Saturday, December 30th, to elect officers &c.

That the PILOT readers may have a full record of the steps take in this incorporation of St Andrew and the county thereabouts we herewith give the published notice of election.

WHEREAS, the community of persons living within the proposed corporate limits hereinafter described, desire to form a municipal corporation under the provisions of Chapter one (1) of Title ten (X) of the General Statutes of the state of Florida:

Notice is hereby given that all persons who are registered voters residing in the said proposed corporate limits are required to assemble at the hour of 9 o'clock a. m. on the 30th day of December, A. D. 1907 at Ware's Hall within said proposed corporate limits to select officers and organize a municipal corporation within said proposed corporate limits, which are bounded as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of Section thirty (30), in Township three (3) south of Range fourteen (14) West, and running south along the section line on the east boundary of said Section thirty (30) and section thirty-one (31) in Township three (3) south of Range fourteen (14) west, and the east boundary line of Section six (6) in Township four (4) south, Range fourteen (14) west, to the waters of St Andrews Bay, and thence along said line due south to the line dividing Washington and Calhoun Counties in the middle of St Andrews Bay, thence in a westerly direction along said county lines and the middle of St Andrews Bay to the middle of West Arm of St Andrews Bay, and along the middle of said West Arm of St Andrews Bay to a point due west of the northwest corner of Section twenty-five (25), in Township three (3) south of Range fifteen (15) west; thence due east to the said northwest corner of fractional Section twenty-five (25) and east along the section line on the north boundary of said Section twenty-five (25) Township three (3) south Range fifteen (15) west and the section line on the north boundary of Section thirty (30) in Township three (3) south of Range fourteen (14) west to the northeast corner thereof, at the point of beginning; including Sections thirty (30) and thirty-one (31) in Township three (3) south of Range fourteen (14) west; fractional Section six (6) in Township four (4) south of Range fourteen (14) west, fractional Sections twenty-five (25), twenty-six (26), thirty-four (34), thirty-five (35) and thirty-six (36) in Township three (3) south of Range fifteen (15) west, and fractional Section one (1) in township four (4) south of Range fifteen (15) west and all to the west and south of said land to the middle of St Andrews Bay as described; in which territory above described now reside less than three hundred (300) and more than twenty-five (25) registered voters.

J. H. Drummond, H. C. Munson,
L. E. Danford, Edward Hand,
L. M. Ware, jr., W. A. Emmons,
G. W. Surber, jr., Samuel Surber,
A. L. Welch, C. P. Moates,
L. N. Mapes, John Sturrock,
C. T. Porter, Wm. Hill, sr.,
J. T. Thompson, B. F. Thompson,
B. F. Moates, J. H. Brown,
J. R. Thompson, C. L. Joyner,
G. W. Surber, sr., J. T. Gwaltney,
W. G. Mitchell, Chas. Knowles,
J. A. Moates, F. H. Sheppard,
E. B. Smith, Isaac Godard,
Charles Doty, Webster Doty,
J. D. Stephens, L. E. Vickery,
C. L. Armstrong, F. E. Haight,
C. G. Armstrong, J. C. Brainard,
J. J. Kester, E. W. Masker,
J. M. Wills, C. H. Danford,
A. H. Brake, H. W. Gwaltney,
O. H. Kester.

As the PILOT has frequently stated it is of the opinion that if it be truly desired to incorporate St Andrew to take such action as is outlined above is inauspicious and unfortunate. It has the ear marks of spite, and mere spite work never has nor never will win in the long run.

A few ciphers standing by themselves amount to nothing, but at the right of 57,000, representing acres of land, they are the real thing. In our report of acreage of the Sale-Davis Co. last week three ciphers got into that position. The context showed what was intended, but to those not acquainted with such matters they might be misleading. Fifty seven thousand acres is of itself some land, and enough for all present purposes.

Harbor Improvement.

Mr W. B. Stillwell of Savannah, who visited this place a short time ago, as spoken of in last weeks PILOT, wired T. D. Sale, of Southport, on Friday last to have the representatives of the various firms and industries on St Andrews Bay write him their views as regards the opening up of this harbor, such information to be used by him upon his attendance this week at the Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington, of which he is an official member.

Mr Sale very promptly got in to communication with the parties interested in this section, and by that evenings mail there was forwarded such a number of letters, and statement of facts, as would give Mr Stillwell a good opportunity to present the claims of this Bay to the Congress, and to those to whom we must look for aid in securing an appropriation.

W. B. Stillwell is a very energetic far seeing business man, and his cooperation with our own people in this matter can but be of positive value. It is to be hoped that his efforts will be heartily supported by the people of West Florida, and those portions of Alabama and Georgia that are particularly interested, and that their requirements will meet with such aid from the Government as is justly their due.

Since the above was written the PILOT is in receipt of the following letter from Mr Stillwell. In behalf of the Bay country the PILOT desires to thank the gentlemen for his interest in this harbor, and assure him that his efforts will be fully appreciated by the people of Lower Alabama, Georgia, and West Florida.

SAVANNAH, GA., Nov. 29, 1907.
Editor Panama City PILOT,
Panama City, Florida.

DEAR SIR:

Referring to my conversation with you when in Panama City last week, I will be glad to do anything I can in Washington to have the government deepen the water on St Andrew Bay and improve the Bay as an harbor. I did not know of the extent and capabilities of this Bay until my recent visit.

I would be glad if your company and any of the other St Andrew Bay people would write me a letter addressed to New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., requesting me to represent you in the convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress. If these letters are sent promptly they will probably reach me in season. In any event, be assured that I will do all I possibly can for you in the matter. You will note from enclosed circular letter that I am a director in the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, representing the Southeastern Atlantic and Gulf coasts, i. e., Georgia and Florida, and had I known as much of St Andrew Bay as I do now, formal call and invitations to be represented in the coming convention would have reached you ere this.

My trip to St Andrew Bay was a most interesting and instructive one, and I can assure you will be long remembered by me with pleasure.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

W. B. STILLWELL.

G. L. Fenters & Co have this week received their stock of curios and souvenirs of Panama City, consisting of shell work of various kinds, and many other kinds of curios. Those desiring to send their friends something that will remind them of this locality can find just the thing among these goods.

Yesterday mornings mail brought letters from Pensacola postmarked November 28th, 7 days en route, and Friday mornings papers. The Bay country never has had quite such miserable mail service as it is getting now.

Although we printed a large issue of last weeks PILOT it was entirely exhausted before three days had passed. Such a demand for the paper is very gratifying to the manager, and urges him to greater efforts to give the people a desirable and reputable paper.

St. Andrew.

Mrs Bracken was an arrival on last weeks Tarpon.

Mrs F. Bullock left the forepart of the week with her brother to make a visit at her home in Westville.

J. McKeithen, of Southport, and Hinton Gwaltney, who have been away on Lodge work, returned yesterday Tarpon.

Mrs L. M. Ware who has been making quite an extended visit with friends at Pensacola and Mobile is expected home next week.

Moates Brothers caught 3,000 pounds more trout on yesterday. This firm are having very good success just now in getting the fish.

J. D. Coffman, with a friend, from Chicago, arrived on yesterday's Tarpon for a winters stay at Mr Coffman's pleasant home at Old Town.

The schooner Cleopatra came in early Saturday morning with a miscellaneous cargo for bay points, and left for Pensacola Sunday noon.

C. T. Porter and Walter Gwaltney went to Anderson on Sunday in the Leonore, Capt Witherill, returning Tuesday evening on the mail boat.

We are pleased to hear that it is probable that Mr Brock will resume butchering, and our people will again be supplied with a supply of choice beef.

Capt Bert Ware with the Nancy Lee left yesterday morning for Pensacola with 3,600 pounds of trout that Mr Moates caught on Tuesday in the Lagoon.

Rev E. W. Roberts left last week to attend the Annual Conference of this District of the M. E. Church, South, which is being held this week at Enterprise, Ala.

At Hands they are this week putting up a launch for Ed Masker which is to be 27 feet in length, equipped with an 8 h. p. Eclipse engine. It is to be named the "Sharpshooter."

Santa Claus has established his headquarters at Brakes, and is displaying a fine stock of goods at that popular stand. He has an assortment of toys and gifts that will not only suit all as to a choice, but also in price. Make him an early visit.

Capt Bert Ware returned from his trip to Pensacola with his new launch the Nancy Lee on Thursday last, having had the same measured by Custom House officials and registered. The boat behaved finely on its trial trip, and made an average of nine miles per hour.

In Justice Sturrocks court on Monday, the 2nd, the following cases were disposed of.

Johnson vs Mock. Damages. Continued until Dec 9th.

Seoniers vs Trousdale. Damages. Continued until January 7th, 1908.

On leaving the Presbyterian church Sunday evening Mrs Loraine had the misfortune to fall and bruise herself quite badly.

Presbyterian Church Services.

Those who were in attendance at the Presbyterian church Sunday forenoon and night had a rare treat in the scholarly and effectively delivered sermons of Rev Dr J. W. Walden, of Palmer College, DeFuniak Springs. There was a good attendance and the expression was unanimous that the worthy Doctor could not visit us too often. Readers of the PILOT are requested to bear in mind the services at this church next Sunday, when the new minister Rev J. W. Roundtree, will preach. We trust there will be a good attendance to welcome the new pastor.

Initiating the Nancy Lee.

The Nancy Lee, Capt Bert Ware, made its maiden catch of fish on Monday of this week. On that morning Capt Bert with the crew of the Martha Lillian, and Raymond Sheppard, went out to the snapper banks between West Pass and Philips inlet, and by night were back to the dock with 2,600 pounds of red snappers. Many other fish were also caught. They were transferred to the ice boxes of the Martha Lillian, and the latter boat and the Nancy Lee started out again Tuesday morning. The Martha Lillian will complete her catch and go to Mobile with the same.